

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 24

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE ELECTIONS COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the governor's task force on ethics reform and
the ethics subcommittee of the New Mexico legislative council
recommended the establishment of a bipartisan committee to
study the establishment of an independent state elections
commission; and

WHEREAS, public confidence in a representative democracy
hinges on the preservation of the integrity and reliability of
election results; and

WHEREAS, the nonpartisan administration of elections could
play an important role in preserving public confidence in the
election process and election officials; and

WHEREAS, national trends toward the establishment of

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1 independent elections commissions and the importance of
2 increasing the public's confidence in state elections warrant
3 further study of the administration of state elections and the
4 possibility for the establishment of an independent state
5 elections commission in New Mexico;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor and the legislature be
8 requested to establish a bipartisan committee to study the
9 establishment of an independent state elections commission; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the committee be
11 appointed in the following manner:

12 A. the governor shall appoint six members, not more
13 than three of whom are of the same political party;

14 B. three members of the house of representatives
15 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of
16 representatives and three members of the senate shall be
17 appointed by the committees' committee of the senate or, if the
18 senate appointments are made during the interim, by the
19 president pro tempore of the senate after consultation with and
20 agreement of a majority of the members of the committees'
21 committee. Legislator members shall be appointed from each
22 house, after consultation with the floor leaders of the two
23 major political parties, so that no more than two members from
24 each house are members of the same political party; and

25 C. the governor, the president pro tempore of the

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1 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall
2 jointly appoint four county clerks, no more than two of whom
3 are members of the same political party; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor, the speaker of
5 the house of representatives and the president pro tempore of
6 the senate shall jointly appoint a chair and vice chair of the
7 committee; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bipartisan committee
9 receive testimony from the secretary of state and other
10 election officials and experts as necessary to carry out its
11 duties; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative council
13 service and the office of the governor provide staff and
14 support for the committee; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bipartisan committee
16 conclude its work by December 1, 2008 and make recommendations
17 and draft legislation, if necessary, to implement the
18 recommendations for consideration by the first session of the
19 forty-ninth legislature; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the governor, the president pro tempore of the
22 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.